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DD/S&T# 429-72

DD/S 72-0540

9 FEB 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

Bill:

Although I concurred in the proposed letters relating to H. R. 9853 I did so with considerable hesitation and only upon assurance by the experts that it is considered the best of the various bills presented thus far and that they firmly believe Congress will enact some legislation in the area of classification of information. We are really most apprehensive at the prospect of a commission to examine the "rules" of the Central Intelligence Agency in terms of "the need to maintain a free flow of information" to the public. In fact it seems to us that "free flow of information" to the public and the necessity to protect intelligence sources and methods as being incompatible.

You should also be aware in presenting this to the Director that he, in conversations last October with Mr. John D. Ehrlichman, wished Agency material excluded from proposed declassified history of recent historical events--the Lebanon Landings, the Bay of Pigs, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. We are not certain as to how the matter was ultimately resolved in the Director's discussions with Mr. Ehrlichman but the conclusion would seem pertinent to the Agency's position on this new proposed legislation.

[Redacted Signature Box]

John W. Coffey

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DD/S 72-0540

SUBJECT: H.R. 9853, A Bill to Establish a Commission on the  
Classification and Protection of Information

DD/Sec:EPG

Rewritten:ADD/S:RSW/ms (8 Feb 72)

Distribution:

Orig - DCI (as Att A to DD/S 72-0527) ✓

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Rewritten: DD/S:JWC:maq (9 Feb 72)